

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicant hereby cancels Claims 7-24, 33-59, 61-88, 92-106, 109-133, 137-150 without prejudice and is adding new Claims 151-154.

1. Original) A gas discharge panel production method comprising:

a surrounding unit forming step for forming a surrounding unit by putting a first panel and a second panel together, wherein barrier ribs for partitioning light-emitting cells are formed on a main surface of the first panel, and the first panel and the second panel are put together to face each other with the barrier ribs in between; and

a sealing step for sealing the surrounding unit with a sealing material inserted between the first panel and the second panel at the rim, wherein

the sealing step includes:

a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

2. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein

the pressure adjustment sub-step starts before the sealing material hardens.

3. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein

the sealing material softens when an energy is given from outside, and

in the sealing step, the sealing material is first softened then hardened to seal the surrounding unit.

4. (Previously Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein
in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and
in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from the inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

5. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 4, wherein
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the surrounding unit is provided with an air vent which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit, and a pipe is connected to the air vent with a crystallized glass in between, and
in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the pipe.

6. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein
the sealing step includes:
an airtightly seal sub-step for interrupting gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit, and
in the pressure adjustment sub-step, pressure inside the surrounding unit after the airtightly seal sub-step is adjusted to be lower than before the airtightly seal sub-step.

7. -24. (Cancelled)

25. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of ~~Claim 23~~ Claim 151, wherein

an anti-deformation member is disposed at the rim of at least one of the first panel and the second panel to be used in the surrounding unit forming step so as to prevent the first panel and the second panel from deforming by pressure by the fastening tools.

26. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein

the anti-deformation member and the barrier ribs are made of the same material.

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27. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein

the anti-deformation member is formed so as to prevent the sealing material from flowing into an inner area of the surrounding unit.

28. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 25, wherein

the anti-deformation member and the barrier ribs have the same height.

29. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while an anti-displacement means for preventing a relative displacement of the first panel and the second panel is disposed on the surrounding unit.

30. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein

an anti-sealing-material-inflow member is disposed at the rim of at least one of the first panel and the second panel to be used in the surrounding unit forming step so as to prevent the sealing material from flowing into an inner area of the surrounding unit.

31. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 30, wherein
the sealing material is disposed at outside the anti sealing-material-inflow member during
the surrounding unit forming step.

32. (Previously Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

33. - 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein
in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and
in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

61. - 88. (Cancelled)

89. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein
in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

90. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein
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in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

91. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6, wherein
in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

92. - 106. (Cancelled)

107. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3 further comprising:
an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

108. (Original) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6 further comprising:

an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

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109. - 133. (Cancelled)

134. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 2.

135. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 3.

136. (Original) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in Claim 6.

137. - 150 (Cancelled)

151. (New) A gas discharge panel production method comprising:

a surrounding unit forming step for forming a surrounding unit by putting a first panel and a second panel together, wherein barrier ribs for partitioning light-emitting cells are formed on a main surface of the first panel, and the first panel and the second panel are put together to face each other with the barrier ribs in between; and

a sealing step for sealing the surrounding unit with a sealing material inserted between the first panel and the second panel at the rim, wherein

in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second panel are pinched by the fastening tools at an area in which the barrier ribs are formed.

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152. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 151, wherein

in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by the fastening tools at an image display area.

153. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 151, wherein

in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by clips.

154. (New) The gas discharge panel productions method of Claim 152, wherein

in the sealing step, the first panel and the second panel are pinched by clips.

1 21. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

7 22. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6, wherein
8 the sealing step includes:
9 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
10 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
11 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
12 the second panel at the rim.

13 23. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1, wherein
14 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
15 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

16 32. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 1 further
17 comprising:
18 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
19 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
20 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

1 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
2 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

3 42. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 36, wherein
4 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
5 sealing step and the bonding step include:

6 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
7 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

8 43. (Amended) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 36, wherein
9 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
10 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

11 51. (Amended) The exhaust pipe sealing off apparatus of Claim 49, wherein
12 the restriction member is disposed at tow locations or more along the exhaust pipe
13 between the heating unit and the exhaust pipe.

14 53. (Amended) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
15 Claim 1.

Please add the following newly drafted Claims 60-150.

1 60. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein
2 in the surrounding unit forming step, a connection path which connects inside of the
3 surrounding unit to outside of the surrounding unit is formed in the surrounding unit, and

4 in the pressure adjustment sub-step, gas is exhausted from inside of the surrounding unit
5 to outside of the surrounding unit via the connection path.

1 61. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 7, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 62. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 8, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 63. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 9, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 64. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 10, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 65. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 11, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 66. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 12, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 67. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 13, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 68. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 14, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 69. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 15, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 70. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 16, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the

4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and

6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 71. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 17, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and

6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 72. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 18, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material 1 so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and

6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 73. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 19, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing materialv so that gas
4 flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is interrupted, and
5 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 74. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 20, wherein
2 the sealing material softens when a stimulus is given from outside, and
3 in the airtightly seal sub-step, the stimulus is given to the sealing material to soften the
4 sealing material so that gas flow between inside and outside of the surrounding unit is
5 interrupted, and
6 the pressure adjustment sub-step is performed after the airtightly seal sub-step starts.

1 75. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 7, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

7 76. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 8, wherein
8 the sealing step includes:
9 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
10 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
11 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
12 the second panel at the rim.

1 77. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 9, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing

4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 78. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 10, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 79. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 11, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 80. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 12, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 81. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 13, wherein

2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing

4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing

5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and

6 the second panel at the rim.

1 82. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 14, wherein

2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing

4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing

5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and

6 the second panel at the rim.

1 83. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 15, wherein

2 the sealing step includes:

3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing

4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing

5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and

6 the second panel at the rim.

1 84. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 16, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 85. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 17, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 86. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 18, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 87. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 19, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 88. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 20, wherein
2 the sealing step includes:
3 a preparatory sealing sub-step for sealing the surrounding unit with another sealing
4 material different from the sealing material before the surrounding unit is sealed with the sealing
5 material in the sealing step, the other sealing material being inserted between the first panel and
6 the second panel at the rim.

1 89. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 90. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 91. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 92. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 7, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 93. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 8, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 94. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 9, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 95. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 10, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 96. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 11, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 97. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 12, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 98. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 13, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 99. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 14, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 100. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 15, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 101. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 16, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 102. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 17, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 103. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 18, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 104. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 19, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 105. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 20, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the surrounding unit is sealed while the first panel and the second
3 panel is pressurized by fastening tools pinching the first panel and the second panel at the rim.

1 106. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 2 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 107. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 3 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 108. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 6 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 109. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 7 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 110. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 8 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 111. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 9 further comprising:
2 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
3 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
4 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
5 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
6 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 112. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 10 further
2 comprising:
3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 113. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 11 further
2 comprising:
3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and
6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 114. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 12 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 115. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 13 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 116. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 14 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 117. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 15 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 118. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 16 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 119. (New) The gas' discharge panel production method of Claim 17 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 120. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 18 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 121. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 19 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 122. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 20 further
2 comprising:

3 an adhesive application step for applying an adhesive to top of the barrier ribs on the first
4 panel, the applied adhesive being to bond the top of the barrier ribs to the second panel, and the
5 adhesive application step being performed before the surrounding unit forming step, and

6 in the sealing step, the top of the barrier ribs and the second panel are bonded together by
7 the applied adhesive as the surrounding unit is sealed by the sealing material.

1 123. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 37, wherein
2 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
3 sealing step and the bonding step include:

4 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
5 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

1 124. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 38, wherein
2 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
3 sealing step and the bonding step include:

4 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
5 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

1 125. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 39, wherein
2 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
3 sealing step and the bonding step include:

4 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
5 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

1 126. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 40, wherein
2 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
3 sealing step and the bonding step include:

4 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
5 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

1 127. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 41, wherein
2 whichever comes first out of the sealing step and the bonding step includes, or both of the
3 sealing step and the bonding step include:
4 a pressure adjustment sub-step for adjusting pressure so that pressure inside the
5 surrounding unit is lower than pressure outside the surrounding unit.

1 128. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 37, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
3 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

1 129. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 38, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
3 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

1 130. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 39, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
3 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

1 131. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 40, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
3 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

1 132. (New) The gas discharge panel production method of Claim 41, wherein
2 in the sealing step, the barrier ribs are observed in terms of shape, and condition for
3 radiating the energy is controlled based on results of the observance.

1 133. (Amended) The exhaust pipe sealing off apparatus of Claim 50, wherein
2 the restriction member is disposed at tow locations or more along the exhaust pipe
3 between the heating unit and the exhaust pipe.

1 134. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 2.

1 135. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 3.

1 136. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 6.

1 137. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 7.

1 138. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 8.

1 139. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 9.

1 140. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 10.

1 141. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 11.

1 142. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 12.

1 143. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 13.

1 144. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 14.

1 145. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 15.

1 146. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 16.

1 147. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 17.

1 148. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 18.

1 149. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 19.

1 150. (New) A gas discharge panel produced with a production method defined in
2 Claim 20.